



PARTNER SHARES PROGRAM

Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition
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Here, in the breadbasket of the Mid-West, several communities have little or no access to fresh, healthy foods, just the corner convenience store. Social, economic, and practical barriers that prevent our neighbors from eating nutritious food are numerous and growing. MACSAC's Partner Shares Program works to reverse this trend and connect families with fresh, organic vegetables from local community farms.

Since 1997, MACSAC's Partner Shares Program has assisted eligible low-income households in becoming members of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms. As farm members, households receive a weekly box of fresh vegetables and invitations to community events at the farm. Partner Shares provides financial assistance to these families to pay up to 50% of a CSA vegetable share and farm membership. Participants pay the remaining balance over manageable monthly payments. We raise money for the Assistance Fund through individual donations, grants, and fundraising events, such as Bike the Barns.

Community Supported Agriculture is a revolutionary rethinking of our food system. It is a way for consumers to interact with producers, city-dwellers to know where their food comes from, and whole communities to share the responsibility for the health, economic and social well being of their neighbors. The Partner Shares Program takes this initiative one step further to extend the benefits of an engaged, healthy food system to the **entire** community.

MACSAC's Partner Shares Program is a *nationally recognized leader in the food justice movement*. This initiative not only works one-on-one with participating families to ensure that they have the support and education to take advantage of their farm's bounty, but also fully supports our local CSA farmers. Since its inception Partner Shares has brought over 100,000 lbs of fresh food from local farms into our community. In 2009 MACSAC has doubled our goal for program participation offering assistance to families, children, and individuals in need throughout the Midwest.

We hope to create a vibrant community where all our neighbors can enjoy the fruits and vegetables of our local farms & share in a conscientious community of healthy, active families.

For more information, contact Gini Knight at (608) 226-0300 or gini@macsac.org.